SUMMARIES

OF

GENERAL LAWS ENACTED AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA AT THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION

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SB21	Act 2015-340	SB170	Act 2015-308	SB320	Act 2015-212
SB22	Act 2015-430	SB172	Act 2015-80	SB321	Act 2015-318
SB24	Act 2015-307	SB177	Act 2015-208	SB327	Act 2015-484
SB25	Act 2015-200	SB179	Act 2015-281	SB341	Act 2015-445
SB30	Act 2013-44	SB180	Act 2015-238	SB342	Act 2015-446
SB33	Act 2015-431	SB182	Act 2015-381	SB354	Act 2015-485
SB34	Act 2015-432	SB183	Act 2015-282	SB357	Act 2015-320
SB35	Act 2015-26	SB184	Act 2015-283	SB361	Act 2015-486
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SB49	Act 2015-474	SB191	Act 2015-125	SB366	Act 2015-319
SB51	Act 2015-433	SB197	Act 2015-188	SB375	Act 2015-327
SB52	Act 2015-120	SB200	Act 2015-439	SB383	Act 2015-386
SB58	Act 2015-124	SB210	Act 2015-440	SB388	Act 2015-447
SB67	Act 2015-185	SB212	Act 2015-478	SB411	Act 2015-498
SB70	Act 2015-198	SB216	Act 2015-441	SB421	Act 2015-342
SB71	Act 2015-434	SB220	Act 2015-494	SB431	Act 2015-322
SB72	Act 2015-89	SB222	Act 2015-312	SB437	Act 2015-448
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HB2	Act 2015-69	HB170	Act 2015-103	HB355	Act 2015-262
HB6	Act 2015-81	HB171	Act 2015-104	HB358	Act 2015-128
HB12	Act 2015-451	HB172	Act 2015-107	HB377	Act 2015-361
HB14	Act 2015-406	HB173	Act 2015-108	HB380	Act 2015-466
HB17	Act 2015-362	HB174	Act 2015-109	HB389	Act 2015-467
HB19	Act 2015-157	HB175	Act 2015-110	HB401	Act 2015-468
HB25	Act 2015-255	HB176	Act 2015-111	HB411	Act 2015-225
HB28	Act 2015-78	HB179	Act 2015-168	HB420	Act 2015-225
HB29	Act 2015-256	HB184	Act 2015-127	HB458	Act 2015-293
HB30	Act 2015-257	HB186	Act 2015-156	HB459	
HB31	Act 2015-338	HB189	Act 2015-159	HB500	Act 2015-97
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HB47	Act 2015-266	HB208	Act 2015-290		Act 2015-410
HB51	Act 2015-46	HB209	Act 2015-457	HB583	Act 2015-372
HB54	Act 2015-165	HB210		HB594	Act 2015-219
HB57	Act 2015-41	HB211	Act 2015-291	HB602	Act 2015-339
HB58	Act 2015-27	HB211	Act 2015-408	HB630	Act 2015-349
HB59	Act 2015-24	HB217	Act 2015-223		
HB61	Act 2015-24	HB222	Act 2015-499		
HB62	Act 2015-363	HB231	Act 2015-365		
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HB129	Act 2015-454	HB286	Act 2015-461		
HB130	Act 2015-455	HB298	Act 2015-294		
HB134	Act 2015-492	HB301	Act 2015-43		
HB136	Act 2015-126	HB312	Act 2015-462		
HB162	Act 2015-94	HB316	Act 2015-463		
HB163	Act 2015-95	HB320	Act 2015-493		
HB164	Act 2015-96	HB323	Act 2015-367		
HB165	Act 2015-98	HB324	Act 2015-368		
HB166	Act 2015-99	HB332	Act 2015-409		
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Act 2015-1, HB72, ratifies and confirms municipal option elections for wet or dry classification and any related taxes and licenses levied and collected by municipalities with a population of 1,000 or more residents pursuant to a municipal option election held pursuant to existing law governing the procedure for wet or dry classification option elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 12, 2015.

Act 2015-2, HB73, amends Sections 28-2A-1 and 28-2A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to municipal option elections for the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages, to remove the exclusion of Clay, Randolph, and Blount Counties from the provisions allowing a county to change its classification from dry to wet or wet to dry by a municipal option election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 12, 2015.

Act 2015-3, SB45, is the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act. The act provides for the establishment of start-up public charter schools and public schools converted to public charter schools by local boards of education registered as an authorizer with the State Department of Education or the Alabama Public Charter School Commission, an eleven-member independent state entity. The number of start-up public charter schools may not exceed 10 per year for the first five fiscal years, with no limit on the number of conversion public charter schools that may be authorized. The act provides that students enrolled in and attending public charter schools must be included in all enrollment and attendance counts of students of the local school systems in which the students reside. However, in the initial year of establishment, a public charter school is funded directly from the Education Trust Fund from the appropriation to current units.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 19, 2015.

Act 2015-24, HB59, is the Alabama Reinvestment and Abatements Act. The act creates reinvestment incentives for Alabama-based facilities that are refurbished, upgraded, or placed back in service. A qualifying project, as defined in the act, may receive abatements of construction related transaction taxes, noneducational property tax incremental increases, and a rebate of incremental increases in utility taxes for up to 10 years. Regardless of the length of the abatement, county and municipal noneducational taxes may be abated only with the consent of the county or municipality, and state property taxes may be abated only with the consent of the Governor. A company may assign and convey the utility tax refund to another entity. The act also allows AIDT worker training on new and replacement equipment. A qualifying project under the act is a project: (1) that proposes to invest in capital expenditures that equal or exceed \$2,000,000 as part of any addition, expansion, improvement, renovation, re-opening, or rehabilitation of a facility, or replacement of any existing equipment or tangible personal property; (2) that predominantly involves an approved activity; and (3) for which no project

agreement has been entered with the Governor for the provision of other incentives. The act also amends Sections 40-9B-3 and 40-9B-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow abatements of construction related transaction taxes and noneducational property taxes to be granted for up to 20 years, which is an additional 10 years over the current abatement period allowed by law. For ad valorem abatements longer than 10 years, county and municipal noneducational taxes may be abated only with the consent of the county or municipality, and state taxes may only be abated with the consent of the Governor. Under the act, abatements will end if the facility or property is not used for 6 months for its approved purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 26, 2015.

Act 2015-26, SB35, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Lamar County, to provide that certain elected or appointed public officials, including the sheriff, in the county may participate in the Employees' Retirement System in lieu of participating in a supernumerary program or system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-27, HB58, is the Alabama Jobs Act. The act provides incentives to certain businesses for projects that create any number of new employees, for a qualifying project whose predominant activity involves chemical manufacturing, data centers, engineering, design or research, or at least 50 new employees, for all other projects. The bill authorizes an incentivized company to claim either or both (1) a jobs credit against utility taxes equal to 3% of wages paid to eligible employees in the previous year for 10 years, or (2) an investment credit against income taxes, financial institution excise taxes, insurance premium taxes, utility taxes, or some combination of these taxes in an annual amount of 1.5 percent of the capital investment for 10 years, based on the terms and conditions of the project agreement entered into between an approved company and the Governor. To qualify for an incentive under the act, the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor must determine that a project is in fact a qualifying project and that the amount of tax incentives sought are exceeded by the anticipated revenues to the state, including income, property, business privilege, utility, and sales and use taxes as they arise from: (1) construction activities related to the qualifying project; (2) purchase of building materials and initial equipping of the qualifying project; (3) subsequent equipping of the qualifying project; and (4) the operation of the qualifying project. In addition, the act authorizes the Governor to decrease the amounts and duration of the incentives to ensure the anticipated revenues to the state will exceed the amount of incentives sought. Under the act, the incentive period does not begin for either credit until after the project is placed into service. (See Act 2015-41)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2, 2015.

Act 2015-28, SB108, is the Haiwaya Robinson Emergency Missing Child Alert System Act. The act creates the Emergency Missing Child Alert System in conjunction with existing missing child notification systems to expedite notice to the public regarding missing and endangered children. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is required to implement the program and local law enforcement agencies are required to participate in the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-39, SB83, amends Sections 11-47-170, 11-80-1, and 18-1B-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the power of eminent domain, to prohibit the state, a county, or a municipality or other governmental entity from condemning real property or otherwise using eminent domain to acquire mortgages or deeds of trust. The act does not limit the power of a governmental entity from condemning property that is encumbered by a mortgage or deed of trust if there is a public use of the property as authorized under existing law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-41, HB57, is the Alabama Veterans and Targeted Counties Act. The act provides enhanced incentives under the Alabama Jobs Act (See Act 2015-27) to business entities located in "targeted counties," as defined in the act, and to business entities that employ veterans. An employer must employ at least 25 new employees and will receive the jobs credit for a qualifying project in a targeted county that would be 4 percent of wages paid to eligible employees during the prior year. The act also provides that the investment credit would have an incentive period of 15 years for a qualifying project in a targeted county if the project sells the majority of its output to businesses located nearby. Under the act, an additional 0.5 percent jobs credit is authorized for business entities with a workforce of at least 12 percent of its eligible employees as veterans. The act prohibits business entities from claiming both the additional credit for the employment of veterans and a Hero's for Hire credit. The act also establishes the Accelerate Rural Alabama Fund consisting of monies appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature in any manner, proceeds of project obligations issued by the State Industrial Development Authority ("authority"), and monies from any other source designated for deposit into the fund. In addition to the purposes for which the authority is authorized to issue project obligations, the act authorizes the authority to issue up to \$20,000,000 to provide money for the fund. The project obligations may be payable from revenues and receipts of the authority from a rural financing agreement; secured by a pledge of revenues from a qualifying borrower sufficient to repay the loan; or from any other source permitted by law. The act allows the authority to provide loans to local governments and other entities to fund site preparation and other expenses for projects that will provide employment opportunities in a rural area. Unexpended funds remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year would not revert to State General Fund and any investment earnings on amounts in the fund remain in the fund. The maximum loan for a project is \$2,000,000 if creating 25 or more new jobs, and \$1,000,000 for any other loan, with a maturity date not to exceed 20 years. The act also authorizes the Department of Commerce and the authority to enter into contracts and other agreements in connection with the operation of the fund, including agreements appointing the department as agent for the authority for administration of the fund and the lending program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2, 2015.

Act 2015-42, HB65, amends Sections 36-21-68 and 36-21-73, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Board of Commissioners for the Alabama Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund to set membership fees in an amount of up to \$40 based upon the recommendation of the board actuary. The act also clarifies that adjustment to benefits under the fund are calculated based on the recommendation of the actuary.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: April 14, 2015.

Act 2015-43, HB301, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Shelby County, to authorize retail licensees of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to sell alcoholic beverages after 12:00 p.m. on Sundays.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-44, SB30, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to repeal Amendments 425 and 555 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to the adoption of proposed constitutional amendments affecting only one county and to add a new provision for local constitutional amendment that would require the Legislature to determine, for purposes of who is to vote in the referendum, whether a proposed constitutional amendment affects or applies to only one county or a political subdivision within one or more counties under the procedures provided in the local constitutional amendment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-46, HB51, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Houston County, to authorize the judge of probate to exercise equity jurisdiction concurrent with that of the circuit court in cases originally filed in the probate court if the judge of probate is licensed to practice law in this state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-49, SB2, amends Section 11-50A-6, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, to require the number of board members of the authority to equal the number of municipalities contracting with the authority for the purchase of bulk electric power and energy. The act also provides staggered terms for any new members of the authority's board and allows the board, by unanimous vote of the serving members, to establish compensation of board members of up to \$600 per meeting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 17, 2015.

Act 2015-50, SB111, is the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank Act. The act creates the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the purpose of selecting and assisting in the financing of transportation projects through loans or other financial assistance. Under the act, the infrastructure bank may be capitalized with federal funds, bond proceeds, state appropriations, or other lawful sources as determined by the board of directors of the bank. The act authorizes capitalization of the bank with an amount equal to one cent a gallon of the state gasoline tax and a portion of the license taxes and registration fees on trucks and truck tractors. The Director of Transportation, with the approval of the Governor, determines the amount of funds to be contributed from these sources. The act also provides for the recoupment of funds for non-repayment of loans or other financial assistance made to a governmental unit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-51, SB13, amends Section 26-1-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize persons 18 years of age or older to consent to donating blood or plasma without the permission of a parent or guardian and to provide that the consent is not subject to later disaffirmance because of minority status. The act also repeals Section 26-1-3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to blood donations by persons 17 years of age or older.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017.

Act 2015-52, SB130, amends Sections 40-23-240 and 40-23-241, Code of Alabama 1975, to require the filing and remittance of county and municipal lodging taxes through the ONE SPOT filing system. The act also provides a uniform due date for all local taxes eligible to be filed through the ONE SPOT system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016.

Act 2015-53, SB96, amends Sections 11-1-10, 11-3-5, 11-30-1, 11-49-80, and 11-98-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize counties to contract with municipalities, to prohibit members of county commissions from awarding certain contracts to family members and preclude a county commissioner from participating in the bid preparation or review of a bid received from the county commissioner, a business with which he or she is associated, or a family member of the county commissioner, provide that a family member of a county commissioner may be hired by the county if he or she was hired pursuant to a county personnel policy that does not require the vote of the county commissioner. The act also authorizes two or more counties to self-fund property insurance coverage under the liability self-insurance fund for member counties and provides that county-maintained roads or bridges used for evacuation during an emergency may not be annexed into the municipality or otherwise regulated by the municipality except by agreement of the county and municipality. The act also requires each member of the board of commissioners and each director of an emergency communication district to be bonded and authorizes the board of commissioners to require employees to be bonded.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-54, SB133, amends Sections 8-17-80, 8-17-84, 8-17-87, 8-17-91, 8-17-92, and 8-17-93, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to standards and inspections of petroleum products, and 40-17-325, 40-17-329, 40-17-340, 40-17-359, and 40-17-362, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Terminal Excise Tax, to transfer the collection of inspection fees on gasoline, dyed diesel fuel, dyed kerosene, and lubricating oil and its administrative obligations from the Department of Agriculture and Industries to the Department of Revenue. The act modifies the disposition of related funds to provide for administrative costs to the Department of Revenue for collection of the fees. This act also revises the date that importers importing motor fuel from a bulk plant or some other non-terminal storage location would pay the tax levied pursuant to the Alabama Terminal Excise Tax and exempts aviation fuel from the inspection fee requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The portion of Section 1 of the act adding new paragraph e. to Section 8-17-91(a)(2) is effective October 1, 2015. The portion of Section 4 amending Section 40-17-340 is effective June 1, 2015. The remaining portions of the act are effective October 1, 2016.

Act 2015-68, SB165, amends Section 34-25A-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the practice of prosthetics, orthotics, and pedorthics by persons who are not licensed by the board. The act removes licensure exemptions for individuals who are employed by a diagnostic or medical laboratory or are students in a prosthetic or orthotic educational program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-69, HB2, is the Alabama Stolen Valor Act of 2015. The act creates the crime of theft of valor and provides criminal penalties for persons who knowingly wear, purchase, attempt to purchase, mail, ship, import, export, advertise for sale, or engage in other similar activity relating to certain military decorations or medals, service medals or badges, or ribbons, buttons, or rosettes of any badge, decoration, or medal and receives a material gain.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-70, HB40, repeals various Sections of the Code of Alabama 1975 that are obsolete or no longer serve a purpose, including the following: Sections 2-2-110 to 2-2-114, inclusive, 2-17-26, 3-1-20, 3-1-23 to 3-1-25, inclusive, 5-14A-1 to 5-14A-8, inclusive, 5-16-1 to 5-16-53, inclusive, 9-2-16, 9-11-52, 9-11-235.1, 9-11-247 to 9-11-249, inclusive, 9-11-262, 9-11-306, 9-12-2, 9-12-45, 9-12-112, 11-47-12, 12-21-92, 13A-11-222, 13A-11-223, 13A-12-1, 13A-12-2, 13A-14-3, 13A-12-5, 14-1-8 to 14-1-11, inclusive, 14-1-13, 14-3-1, 14-3-6 to 14-3-8, inclusive, 14-3-11, 14-3-33, 14-3-39, 14-3-41, 14-3-42, 14-3-46, 14-3-48, 14-3-49, 14-3-50 to 14-3-53. inclusive, 14-3-56, 14-3-59, 14-3-60, 14-4-1, 14-4-3, 14-4-7, 14-4-8, 14-5-7, 14-5-9, 14-5-30 to 14-5-37, inclusive, 14-6-60 to 14-6-62, inclusive, 14-6-81 to 14-6-85, inclusive, 14-6-86 to 14-6-92, inclusive, 14-6-98, 14-6-100 to 14-6-102, inclusive, 14-6-105 to 14-6-108, inclusive, 14-8-33, 14-9-3, 14-10-3, 14-11-1 to 14-11-3, inclusive, 14-11-5, 15-4-11, 16-6-1 to 16-6-6, inclusive, 16-15-1 to 16-15-13, inclusive, 16-29-1 to 16-29-6, inclusive, 16-60-210 to 16-60-221, inclusive, 20-1-28 to 20-1-30, inclusive, 21-3-4 to 21-3-8, inclusive, 22-6-5.1, 22-13-1, 22-52-50 to 22-52-58, inclusive, 22-52-70 to 22-52-72, inclusive, 25-1-2, 27-1-8, 27-1-9, 27-26-20 to 27-26-43. inclusive, 28-3-17, 30-1-3, 30-2-12, 30-4-3, 31-9-7, 32-4-3, 32-4-4, 32-14-1 to 32-14-6, inclusive, 32-14-20 to 32-14-24, inclusive, 34-6-6, 34-6-9, 34-6-14, 37-8-160, 37-8-213, 40-12-76, 40-12-77, 40-12-85, 40-12-86, 40-12-95, 40-12-109, 40-12-119, 40-12-120, 40-12-132, 40-12-142, 40-12-164, 40-12-170, 40-12-173, 40-12-175, 40-12-423, 40-20-14, 41-6A-8 to 41-6A-11, inclusive, 41-8A-3, 41-8A-5 to 41-8A-12, inclusive, and 41-9-220, and 41-9-900 to 41-9-906, inclusive. The act requires the Code Commissioner to identify boards, commissions. councils, and task forces that are defunct or that have not held a meeting within the last four years and report those to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2016. The act also reduces supervision and inspection fees for telecommunications carriers for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019, and repeals Section 37-2A-10, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to supervision and inspection fees, effective October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Subdivisions (82) through (93), inclusive, of Section 1 are effective October 1, 2015. Section 2 is effective April 21, 2015, and is repealed on October 1, 2019. The remaining portions of the act are effective April 21, 2015.

Act 2015-78, HB28, amends Section 13A-7-22, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the crime of criminal mischief in the second degree, to provide enhanced penalties for a second or subsequent conviction involving a church or other religious building. The act also requires the court to order a person convicted of the crime involving a church or other religious building to pay restitution as a first priority before the payment of fines or other court costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-79, SB124, amends Sections 6-5-248, 6-5-252, and 8-1-172, Code of Alabama 1975, to reduce the time frame in which a person may redeem residential property that is sold for nonpayment of taxes or that is foreclosed upon from one year to 180 days if the property owner claimed a homestead exemption in the tax year during which the foreclosure occurred. The act also requires a mortgagee who forecloses residential property upon which a homestead exemption was claimed to provide certain notice to the mortgagor regarding redemption. The act applies prospectively and does not apply to certain sales occurring prior to the effective date of the act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-80, SB172, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to St. Clair County, to authorize the Legislature to fix, alter, or regulate court costs in the county and provide for their distribution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-81, HB6, amends Section 11-44G-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the filling of a vacancy in the office of mayor in a Class 7 or Class 8 municipality, to provide that the section does not apply to vacancies in the office of mayor in municipalities having a population of 12,000 or more inhabitants according to the most recent federal decennial census. Under the act, municipalities that satisfy this population range would fill vacancies in the office of mayor by service as mayor by the president or president pro tempore of the council or, in the event of the failure of the president or president pro tempore to act, by appointment of one of the council members by the council members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-82, HB39, is the Truth in Salary Act. The act requires state and local boards of education to provide an itemized statement of all benefits received or accrued by the employee or retiree, including information about the total employer contributions to the retirement system and health insurance plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 24, 2015.

Act 2015-83, SB136, amends Section 36-26-14, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize county employees to participate in the tax deferred annuity and deferred compensation programs authorized to be adopted by the State Personnel Board, subject to approval by the county.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 24, 2015.

Act 2015-89, SB72, requires, at a minimum and prior to the 2016-2017 school year, each local board of education to adopt a policy for providing a virtual school option for eligible students in grades 9 through 12 to provide an online pathway for earning a high school diploma. The act provides that a full-time student enrolled in a virtual program will be enrolled and counted in the average daily membership of the local school, participate in certain state testing and accountability requirements, and, upon satisfying certain requirements, receive a diploma from the local school system. The act also establishes a legislative task force to review and make recommendations for the funding, structure, and curriculum of the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program and to aid in the administration of the act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-94, HB162, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Interagency Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law. The act also amends Section 38-9D-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the council must meet at the call of the chair and repeals Section 38-9D-7, Code of Alabama 1975, to remove the council from the regularly scheduled review under the Sunset Law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 28, 2015.

Act 2015-95, HB163, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Historical Commission pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 28, 2015.

Act 2015-96, HB164, continues the existence and functioning of the State Board for Registration of Architects pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019. The act also amends Section 34-2-33, Code of Alabama 1975, to change the date of expiration of a certificate of registration to practice architecture from September 30 to December 31.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 28, 2015.

Act 2015-97, HB459, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Etowah County, to provide that the employees of the office of sheriff, except for the chief deputy, chief of detention, chief of administration, chief of investigation, director of communications, and food service manager, are under the authority of the Personnel Board of the Office of the Sheriff of Etowah County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-98, HB165, continues the existence and functioning of the State Licensing Board for General Contractors pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-99, HB166, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-100, HB167, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Security Regulatory Board pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019. The act also amends Section 34-27C-9, Code of Alabama 1975, to clarify the authority of the board to establish fees relating to the licensure of certified trainers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-101, HB168, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Athletic Commission pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-102, HB169, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Athlete Agents Commission pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-103, HB170, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-104, HB171, continues the existence and functioning of the Board of Examiners on Admission to the State Bar pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-106, SB80, provides that a manufacturer is not liable, under any theory of liability, for damages resulting from a product not designed, manufactured, sold, or leased by the manufacturer. The act also provides that if a manufacturer's design is copied without express authorization, the manufacturer is not subject to liability for personal injury, death, or property damage caused by the manufacturer's product even if use of the design is foreseeable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 2015.

Act 2015-107, HB172, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-108, HB173, continues the existence and functioning of the Polygraph Examiners Board pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-109, HB174, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-110, HB175, continues the existence and functioning of the Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2018.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-111, HB176, continues the existence and functioning of the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law until October 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-115, HB99, authorizes a city council in a Class 2 municipality to adopt procedures for the abatement of repeated nuisances, such as overgrown grass and weeds, on property that had previously been subject to abatement within three years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-116, HB207, revises the membership of the Tree Commission in a Class 2 municipality, further provides for the appointment of commission members, provides that commission members serve at the pleasure of the city council, and allows a utility or utility contractor to cut, remove, or trim trees in any street right-of-way in a Class 2 municipality during a declared emergency or to eliminate certain imminent dangers. The act also requires a person aggrieved by a decision of the commission to appeal the decision to the city council of the Class 2 municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-120, SB52, is the Energy Security Act of 2015. The act establishes the right of incumbent electric suppliers to construct, own, operate, and maintain new electric transmission facilities and upgrades for their own electric systems. The act also allows two or more electric suppliers to agree on a new transmission facility that would connect to each of their electric systems and provides for appeals of disputes to the circuit court. The act sunsets on July 1, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-121, SB157, is the Fostering Hope Scholarship Act of 2015. The act requires the Department of Human Resources to develop and administer a scholarship program to public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education for designated persons currently or formerly in the state foster care program, including children adopted from the program at the age of 14 or older, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year. The act also repeals Section 40-18-362, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to postsecondary education assistance for students in foster care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-122, SB159, amends Sections 16-5-10 and 16-46-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt accredited degree granting postsecondary entities that offer online programs of instruction from regulation by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Postsecondary Education, if: (1) the entity is located in a state that participates in a reciprocity agreement that has been entered into by the Governor or the commission, as it relates to the approval of units or programs of instruction; and (2) the state has joined the agreement, with the approval of the Governor or the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, as it relates to accredited degree granting entities. The act also creates a five-member State Reciprocity Committee responsible for making recommendations to the Governor on all issues, decisions, appointments, and designations necessary for the state to participate in and comply with reciprocity agreements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-123, SB271, amends Section 16-60-170, Code of Alabama 1975, to require the Trade School at Frank Lee Youth Center to prioritize the training of adult inmates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-124, SB58, designates the Brown Shrimp as the official state crustacean.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2015.

Act 2015-125, SB191, amends Sections 16-60-110, 16-60-111.1, 16-60-111.2, 16-60-111.3, 16-60-111.4, 16-60-111.5, 16-60-111.6, 16-60-111.7, 16-60-111.8, 16-60-111.9, 16-60-112, 16-60-113, 16-60-114, 16-60-115, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the management and control of trade schools and junior colleges, to establish an independent Alabama Community College System in lieu of the Department of Postsecondary Education and to provide for the assumption by the Chancellor of the system and the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Community College System of all duties and responsibilities for community and technical colleges in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: When a quorum of the board of trustees is confirmed by the Senate or June 4, 2015, which occurs first.

Act 2015-126, HB136, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Baldwin County, to allow the Mayor of Bay Minette to appoint up to two additional members to the Bay Minette Municipal Planning Commission and to provide eligibility requirements for the two additional members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-127, HB184, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Monroe County, to levy a tax on tobacco products and to provide for the collection and distribution of the proceeds from the tax.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-128, HB358, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Henry County, to provide that a person who is not over the age of 72 at the time of qualifying or appointment may be elected or appointed to the office of judge of probate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-129, HB1, is the Alabama Student Religious Liberties Act of 2015. Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, the act prohibits local boards of education from discriminating against a student or parent on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression in public schools. The act also requires local boards of education to: (1) allow religious expression in class assignments, coursework, and artwork; (2) provide students with the freedom to organize religious groups and activities; and (3) adopt and implement a policy regarding voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-155, HB91, amends Section 27-7-5.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to specify that a licensed motor vehicle rental company may authorize and pay compensation to an employee or authorized representative of the company to offer or sell insurance coverage without the licensure of the individual employee or representative. The act also prohibits a rental company from compensating employees or representatives based primarily on the number of customers who elect to purchase insurance coverage, but allows compensation incidental to his or her overall compensation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-156, HB186, amends Section 22-20A-31, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to advertising by food service establishments of certain products containing catfish, to require an establishment to identify the country of origin of food products if not the United States containing catfish or fish products of the Order of Siluriformes and to provide notice to potential purchasers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-157, HB19, amends Section 25-4-73, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to unemployment compensation, to modify the formula for calculating the individual weekly benefit payment to provide that an eligible individual who is unemployed or partially employed in any week must be paid an amount equal to his or her weekly benefit amount reduced by the amount of any wages paid which exceeds one-third of the weekly benefit amount rather than reduced by the amount of income earned in excess of \$15.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-159, HB189, amends Sections 38-3-1, 38-3-2, 38-3-3, 38-3-4, 38-3-5, 38-3-6, and 38-3-7, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Department of Senior Services, to clarify that the commissioner must administer the Department of Senior Services and that the board serves only in an advisory capacity to the commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 11, 2015.

Act 2015-160, HB233, amends Sections 26-24-1 to 26-24-6, inclusive, 26-24-20, 26-24-22, 26-24-23, 26-24-30, and 26-24-34, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Department of Children's Affairs, to change the name of the department to the Department of Early Childhood Education and to provide that the commissioner of the former department will be the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education. The act also expands the duties of the secretary to include the development of a comprehensive system of early learning and care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-161, HB246, amends Section 6-5-332.3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to heart defibrillators, to encourage potential users of automatic external defibrillators ("AEDs") to successfully complete appropriate training regarding their use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation and to require manufacturers to provide in-service training on the use and operation of AEDs. The act also requires a person or entity who acquires an AED to notify the distributor of the AED if any change of ownership in the AED occurs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-163, SB118, amends Section 34-1-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the citizenship qualifications for certification as a certified public accountant and to reduce the semester and quarter hour requirements for eligibility to sit for the CPA examination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-164, SB89, provides further for the appointment of two of the existing board positions and requires the appointment of additional board members for any municipal water works board that, as of January 1, 2015, serves water customers or has assets in four or more counties in addition to the county where the authorizing municipality is principally located. The act also limits the term and compensation of all board members and subjects members to state ethics laws and the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2 of the act is effective January 1, 2017. The remaining portions of the act are effective May 14, 2015.

Act 2015-165, HB54, amends Sections 10A-5A-1.05, 10A-5A-1.06, 10A-5A-1.07, 10A-5A-4.06, and 10A-5A-12.01, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Limited Liability Company Law of 2014, to provide that the law of the state in which a foreign limited liability company (LLC) is formed governs the internal affairs of the entity. The act also clarifies the treatment of a LLC and a foreign LLC for purposes of certain taxation and that the liability of a member of an LLC for a wrongful distribution is limited to the amount of the distributions received by that member.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 14, 2015.

Act 2015-166, HB98, amends Section 41-27-2.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Secretary of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to appoint a designee to perform the duties of Homeland Security Advisor and to include diversity language.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 14, 2015.

Act 2015-167, HB101, amends Section 26-1-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to designate the age of majority as 18 years of age for the purpose of giving consent to participate in certain research conducted by an accredited college or university if the research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of the institution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 14, 2015.

Act 2015-168, HB179, amends Section 5-17-55, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the members of the Credit Union Board of the Alabama Credit Union Administration, to provide that the Credit Union Board, in consultation with the League of Southeastern Credit Unions and Affiliates, must provide a list of nominees for certain member positions appointed by the Governor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 14, 2015.

Act 2015-169, HB231, amends Sections 34-31-18, 34-31-20, 34-31-21, 34-31-24, 34-31-25, and 34-31-26, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the regulation of heating and air conditioning contractors, to include the regulation of the practice of duct tightness testing by the Board of Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors and to provide for registration fees and training requirements. The act also provides for classroom training for home builders through the nonprofit Alabama Home Builders Foundation and provides for a renewal date for certification by the Board of Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-185, SB67, amends Sections 12-25-32, 12-25-33, 13A-5-3, 13A-5-6, 13A-5-9, 13A-5-11, 13A-5-13, 13A-7-7, 13A-8-4, 13A-8-5, 13A-8-8, 13A-8-9, 13A-8-10.2, 13A-8-10.3, 13A-8-18, 13A-8-19, 13A-9-3, 13A-9-4, 13A-9-7, 13A-9-14, 13A-12-212, 13A-12-213, 13A-12-291, 14-14-2, 14-14-4, 14-14-5, 14-12-21, 15-18-8, 15-18-171, 15-18-172, 15-18-174, 15-18-176, 15-18-180, 15-18-182, 15-22-24, 15-22-26, 15-22-28, 15-22-29, 15-22-31, 15-22-32, 15-22-33, 15-22-36, 15-22-36.2, 15-22-37, 15-22-50, 15-22-51, 15-22-52, 15-22-53, 15-22-54, 29-2-20, and 36-18-25, Code of Alabama 1975, to implement a comprehensive reform of the criminal justice and corrections system. The act creates a Class D felony offense classification and reclassifies certain crimes and offenses based on the new Class D classification. The act requires the Department of Corrections to identify alternatives to community corrections programs, places additional responsibilities on the Department of Corrections in supervising community corrections programs, provides for a performance-based reimbursement process for community corrections programs, and revises the medical furlough provisions for inmates. The act requires community corrections programs to implement specified treatment and supervision practices and procedures and removes the requirement that community corrections offenders participate in a program only within his or her judicial circuit. The act requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to implement specified treatment and supervision practices and procedures and requires training of supervising officers in such practices and procedures. The act specifies criteria that should be considered when making parole release decisions and provides that the Board of Pardons and Paroles must articulate its reasons for parole approval or denial. The act also modifies sanctions for parolees and probationers who violate their terms of parole or probation, with certain

exceptions, and requires persons to submit DNA samples under certain conditions. The act also provides that a court retains jurisdiction over an offender to enforce the collection of court-ordered fines, fees, costs, or restitution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 30, 2016, contingent upon certification by the Director of Finance that specific funding to implement the act has been appropriated to the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Department of Corrections.

Act 2015-188, SB197, is the Alabama Right of Publicity Act. The act statutorily defines the right of publicity over an individual's name or likeness and the elements and scope of liability for its infringement, defines the remedies available, and sets forth defenses. The act establishes a right of publicity in any indicia of identity of every person which endures for the life of the person and for 55 years after death, with the right being freely transferable and descendible. The act provides that a person who establishes by substantial evidence that his or her right of publicity has been violated is entitled to statutory damages in a specified amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-189, SB167, amends Section 34-24-604, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow physicians providing pain management services for multiple practice locations to pay one registration fee or annual renewal fee with no additional fee for additional practice locations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-190, SB233, amends Section 34-8-20, Code of Alabama 1975, to require at least one member of the State Licensing Board for General Contractors to have, as a larger part of his or her business, the performance of construction work as a subcontractor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 18, 2015.

Act 2015-192, SB315, amends Section 15-22-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to rescind a scheduled reduction in the monthly supervision fee collected by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 18, 2015.

Act 2015-195, HB92, amends Sections 27-4-2 and 27-8A-9, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for an increase in certain fees, licenses, and miscellaneous charges collected by the Commissioner of Insurance from insurers. The act also makes an appropriation from the Insurance Department Fund to the Department of Insurance in the sum of \$5,000,000 and, beginning in fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and continuing through fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, authorizes the transfer of up to \$2,500,000 from the Insurance Department Fund to the Strengthen Alabama Homes Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-197, SB125, establishes the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in order to develop a comprehensive licensing process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards in member states and provides a streamlined process for physicians to become licensed in multiple states. The act provides eligibility requirements for physicians, requires the designation of a state of principal license, and provides for the application, issuance, and fees for expedited and continued licensure of physicians under the compact. The act also establishes a coordinated information system database of all physicians licensed and creates the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission to administer the compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-198, SB70, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Shelby County, to provide procedures for nominations to the Governor by the Shelby County Judicial Commission to fill vacancies in the office of judge of probate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-199, HB336, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to repeal existing Article VII, relating to impeachment of state and local officers and officials, and to add a new Article VII, providing for impeachment, impeachment procedures, and conviction of persons elected to public office beginning January 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-200, SB25, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to repeal the existing Article III, relating to the separation of powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, and to add a new Article III, providing for the separation of powers of the three branches of government beginning January 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-207, SB95, requires the State Health Department to establish the State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life within the department to advise the State Health Officer and the department on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of palliative care initiatives in the state. The act also creates a statewide Palliative Care Information and Education Program in the State Health Department to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2015.

Act 2015-208, SB177, allows a taxpayer to voluntarily contribute a minimum of \$3 on an ad valorem tax return to the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, Inc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-209, SB284, amends Sections 16-52-3 and 16-52-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the membership of the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University and to decrease term length from 12 to 6 years and to limit service to a total of three full terms. The act also specifies that a trustee who reaches the age of 75 years may serve until the expiration of his or her term of office and provides for emergency meetings of the board.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2015.

Act 2015-210, SB291, amends Sections 16-51-3 and 16-51-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the terms of office of members of the University of North Alabama Board of Trustees, to decrease term length from 12 to 6 years, to authorize emergency meetings of the board, and to allow meetings of the board by teleconference, video conference, or other similar means.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2015.

Act 2015-212, SB320, amends Sections 23-1-154 to 23-1-158, inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Alabama Highway Authority to enter into contracts and agreements with private, public, or government entities to receive funds pledged for specific projects involving construction, reconstruction, or relocation of public highways, bridges, and tunnels, that will be used as security for issuing bonds for those projects. The act also removes language that ties the authority's ability to issue bonds with limitations based on the proceeds of the gasoline excise tax and changes the maximum maturity date on any bonds issued by the authority from 20 to 30 years. Under the act, the membership of the corporation is revised to include the Governor instead of the Executive Secretary to the Governor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2015.

Act 2015-216, SB19, amends Sections 11-46-32, 11-46-33, and 11-46-55, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to elections, to eliminate the deadline requirement for delivery of absentee election supplies within 21 days prior to the election date. The act distinguishes the terms "voting machines" and "electronic vote counting systems." The act also provides that, in a municipal election, in the event of a tie vote, the tie must be decided no later than 12:00 noon on the first Tuesday following the second or runoff election. If the governing body fails to act within that time, the tie would be decided by lot not later than 5:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday following the second or runoff election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2015.

Act 2015-217, HB551, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to amend Amendment 670, now appearing as Section 266 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, relating to the Board of Trustees of Auburn University, to establish procedures for automatically adjusting term expiration dates for board members in order to limit to three the number of terms that expire during the same calendar year. The proposed amendment also increased the membership of the board by two at-large members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-218, SB469, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Autauga County, to amend Amendment 626, now appearing as Section 3, Local Amendments, Autauga County, Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to prohibit the sheriff from participating in the supernumerary program of the county and to allow the sheriff to elect to participate in the Employees' Retirement System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-219, HB594, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Winston County, to grant sixteenth section and school lands located in the county and held in trust by the state for education purposes in the county to the Winston County Board of Education. The proposed amendment also authorizes the board of education to manage, sell, lease, and control the lands and provides that any proceeds and interest generated by the lands must be paid directly to the board of education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-220, HB193, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to allow county commissions to establish certain programs relating to the administration of county affairs, such as a personnel systems, emergency assistance programs, etc. The proposed amendment does not apply to Jefferson County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-223, HB212, amends Sections 32-5A-240 and 23-12-22, Code of Alabama 1975, to require the operator of a motorcycle to pass a motorcycle test designated by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency or complete specified safety courses and to have a Class M designation on the person's driver's license or to have a Class M motorcycle license. The act also requires a person 14 years of age or older to pass a knowledge test designated by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency or complete a specified safety course in order to obtain a Class M motorcycle license with a motor-driven cycle restriction and provides that a person 17 years of age or younger operating a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle would be subject to the restrictions provided in the Graduated Driver's License law applicable to a driver 17 years of age or younger. The act does not apply to a person who obtained a license to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle prior to January 1, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-224, HB232, amends Sections 12-11-30, 12-12-31, 12-19-71, and 12-19-72, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the jurisdictional limits of the small claims division of the district court from \$3,000 to \$6,000. The act also revises the filing fee and filing fee distribution statutes to reflect the new jurisdiction of the small claims division.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-225, HB411, amends Sections 8-22-2, 8-22-4, 8-22-8, and 8-22-10, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise and clarify legislative intent relating to combined sales of motor fuel and other goods under the Motor Fuel Marketing Act. The act allows retailers with gasoline pumps to sell, or offer to sell, motor fuel in a combined sale with other goods when the retailer's combined selling price is not below the cost to the retailer of all motor fuel and other goods included in the transactions. The act also revises the fuel cost definition to include the lowest of the most recent invoice or the weighted-average cost of the motor fuel to the wholesaler or retailer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 2015.

Act 2015-227, SB147, amends Section 27-2-24, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the process used by the Department of Insurance regarding the adoption of insurance company examination reports. The act also provides further for the confidentiality of certain documents obtained during the examination of the company or in the course of market conduct or financial condition analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-236, SB93, renames the H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College as the H. Councill Trenholm State Community College.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-237, SB119, requires the Legislative Fiscal Office to prepare and submit a state tax expenditure report to the Legislature, including each tax exemption and its constitutional or statutory authority and an estimate of the revenue loss to the state caused by each of the tax expenditures for the most recently completed fiscal year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 2015.

Act 2015-238, SB180, Makes an appropriation of \$632,997 from the Education Trust Fund to the Talladega College for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-239, SB240, amends Sections 17-13-3 and 17-13-100, Code of Alabama 1975, to change the date of the presidential primary to the first Tuesday in March, beginning in the 2016 election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 2015.

Act 2015-240, SB260, is the Healthy Food Financing Act. The act establishes a program administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, in partnership with the public and private sector, to provide financing to eligible grocery stores to operate in low and moderate income areas in order to increase the availability of nutritious food to underserved communities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-255, HB25, amends Section 32-6-233.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the amount of the fine for violating the disability access parking law is not required to be displayed or posted on any sign designating a special access or disability parking space. The act also requires a person issued a long-term special access or disability access placard or temporary disability placard to be the driver or a passenger in a vehicle parked in a designated special access or disability parking space.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-256, HB29, allows a member of the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama who is away from work because of a job-related injury and is receiving workers' compensation to purchase service credit for the time he or she was receiving such compensation under certain conditions and within a specified time frame.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-257, HB30, amends Section 36-30-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the family of a firefighter or law enforcement officer who currently serves or previously served and dies as a result of an occupational disease is eligible to receive the state death benefit as if the firefighter or law enforcement officer died in the performance of his or her duties, provided that the person satisfies the three-year service requirement. The act also provides that an application for death benefit submitted after April 29, 2010, and was denied because the decedent was not employed as a firefighter or law enforcement officer on the date of death may be resubmitted for consideration consistent with this act within six months of May 27, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 2015.

Act 2015-259, HB331, amends Section 41-15-4, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the State Insurance Fund, to require public school buildings under the jurisdiction of the Department of Postsecondary Education that are insured by the State Insurance Fund to have gap coverage and gap plus coverage in order to provide sufficient proceeds that would allow the public school buildings to be reconstructed with materials superior to its original construction and in an increased size if appropriate based upon current construction standards and occupancy. The act also requires gap coverage and gap plus coverage for public two-year institutions of postsecondary education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-262, HB355, amends Sections 2-2-33, 2-2-35, 2-15-210, 2-16-20, 2-21-26, 2-26-4, 2-27-33, 8-16-5, and 8-17-81, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture, with approval of the State Board of Agriculture and Industries, to enter into agreements delegating the responsibility for laboratory testing or analyses to any laboratory operated by a state or federal government.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 2015.

Act 2015-275, HB190, amends Sections 34-24-140, 34-24-161, 34-24-165, 34-24-166, 34-24-176, and 34-24-177, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the law relating to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to provide for the issuance of duplicative certificates, increase various fees, including late fees, authorize the board to set certain fees by rule of the board, provide further for reinstatement of licenses, authorize the payment of administrative fines in installments, and to provide for the continuing qualification of board members. The act also repeals Section 34-24-172, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the restoration of licenses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2015.

Act 2015-281, SB179, is the Education Trust Fund Budget. The act makes appropriations for the support, maintenance, and development of public education, for debt service, and for capital outlay for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-282, SB183, makes an appropriation of \$9,921,227 from the Education Trust Fund to Tuskegee University for the support and maintenance of the educational program of the institution, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The act provides that at least \$1,784,788 must be expended for the agricultural research and extension service state match.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-283, SB184, makes an appropriation of \$273,276 from the Education Trust Fund to the Lyman Ward Military Academy for the support and maintenance of the educational program of the institution, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-284, SB268, adopts the 2008 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act to provide guidelines and procedures for the registration, enforcement, and modification of foreign support orders from countries that are parties to the Hague Convention. The act also repeals Chapter 3A, Title 30, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the existing Alabama Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 2015.

Act 2015-288, HB41, amends Section 17-9-13, Code of Alabama 1975, to require an election official to allow a voter who is mobility disabled or over the age of 70 years to move to the front of the line at a polling place if requested by the voter. The act also requires the chief election official at each polling place to post a public notice that such voters may request to be moved to the front of the line at a polling place.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-290, HB204, amends Section 17-4-38, Code of Alabama 1975, to require the Secretary of State to, without charge, provide each legislator with one copy of the voter list in his or her district within 90 days of the date the legislator assumes office, rather than authorizing up to two copies during a legislative quadrennium, as previously required under law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 2015.

Act 2015-291, HB210, amends Sections 41-22-5, 41-22-5.1, 41-22-6, 41-22-22, and 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the disapproval of a rule under the Administrative Procedure Act by the Joint Committee on Administrative Regulation Review may be appealed to the Lieutenant Governor and establishes a procedure for the appeal. The act extends the time rules generally become effective from 35 days after filing the certified rule to 45 days after filing and allows the committee to extend that period to 60 days if it determines a business economic impact statement is required for the rule. The act also repeals Section 41-22-24, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the reconsideration of disapproved rules by the Legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-292, HB241, is the Alabama Homeowners' Association Act. The act requires any homeowners' association formed after January 1, 2016, to organize under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, subjecting it to all duties, requirements, obligations, rights, and privileges under the act and requires the filing of certain association documents with the Secretary of State. The act requires the Secretary of State to implement and maintain an electronic database, organized by association name, accessible by the public through the Secretary of State's website which provides the capability to search and retrieve association filings. The act also authorizes a homeowners' association to adopt and enforce reasonable rules regarding the use of the common areas, provides that an association has a lien on every lot for unpaid assessments levied against that lot provided that the lien is properly recorded and notice is afforded to the owner of the lot, and requires the association to maintain records and information to be made available to each member or potential purchaser, upon written request, within a reasonable time not to exceed 30 days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-293, HB264, amends Section 41-16-50, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize a county or municipality to award a competitive bid for an item of personal property or services to a responsible bidder having a place of business within a preference zone if: (1) the bid is no more than five, rather than three, percent greater than the bid of the lowest responsible bidder; or (2) the bid is no more than 10 percent greater than the lowest bid and the responsible bidder is from a business within the state that is a woman-owned enterprise, an enterprise of small business, a minority-owned business enterprise, a veteran-owned business enterprise, or a disadvantaged owned business enterprise and the lowest bid was made by a business entity that does not have a place of business in this state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-294, HB298, adopts the allowable variances for the hours of service limitations for intrastate commercial motor vehicles as authorized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The act also requires a driver to retain a copy of each record of duty status for the prior seven consecutive days for inspection while on duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-295, HB420, amends Sections 14-2-12 and 14-2-19, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Alabama Corrections Institute Finance Authority to issue up to \$60,000,000 in bonds for any corrections facilities in lieu of only a facility in Perry County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 2015.

Act 2015-306, SB20, amends Section 23-1-50.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to require that state motor vehicles acquired for the Fleet Management Program of the Department of Transportation or other state operated motor vehicle acquisition program must be purchased or leased from a motor vehicle dealership located in this state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-307, SB24, transfers all persons employed by Bishop State Community College, Southern Union State Community College, and the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education who are part of the Alabama Career Center System on July 1, 2015, to the Alabama Department of Labor, contingent upon receipt of Federal Workforce Investment Act funds. The transferred employees are subject to the Merit System Act and retain credit for their years of service with the Alabama Career Center System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015.

Act 2015-308, SB170, creates the construction industry Craft Training Program and the seven-member Craft Training Board to be administered within the existing Alabama Building Commission. Under the act, the board is authorized to manage the program and exercise exclusive control over the newly created Craft Training Fund, from which funds are dispersed as deemed appropriate by the board to enhance coordinated efforts between the construction industry and institutions of higher education and other entities to provide programs promoting construction industry craft training and education. The act also creates a new fee of \$1 per \$1,000 of nonresidential construction authorized via building permits issued by municipalities or counties and requires these fees to be deposited into the Craft Training Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016.

Act 2015-309, SB186, amends Section 36-6-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to remove the maximum compensation limit for cabinet members, assistant cabinet members, and other exempt appointees of the Governor and provide that the Governor must set the salary of these officers and employees, after consultation with the State Personnel Board on appropriate pay ranges for the positions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-312, SB222, provides for the revocation by divorce or annulment of certain documents, such as revocable inter-vivos trusts, life insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations, transfer-on-death accounts, and other revocable dispositions to the former spouse that a divorced individual established before the divorce or annulment. The act also provides that the interests of the former spouses in property that they held at the time of the divorce or annulment as joint tenants with the right of survivorship are severed and their co-ownership interests become tenancies in common.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-313, SB254, amends Sections 27-31D-1, 27-31D-2, and 27-31D-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow owners of residential or commercial property in any county in the state, rather than just coastal counties, to receive an insurance premium reduction for retrofitting the property to strengthen the structures in order to enhance resistance to hurricane and other windstorm damage if the property is certified as constructed in accordance with certain specified standards. For commercial property in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, the act applies to new business and renewals beginning on or after January 1, 2016; for commercial and single family residential property in all counties other than Baldwin and Mobile counties, the act applies to new business and renewals beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015.

Act 2015-314, SB269, is the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act. The act allows a private employer to adopt a voluntary veterans' employment policy which must be in writing and be applied uniformly to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion, or retention during a reduction in force. The act also requires the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Labor to assist private employers in the administration of such policies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-315, SB283, amends Sections 22-30B-2.1, 22-30B-4, and 22-30B-4.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the distribution of the proceeds of hazardous waste disposal facility fees as follows: (1) such amounts necessary to meet the annual guaranteed amount of \$4.2 million to a county having a hazardous waste facility (currently only Sumter County); and (2) any remaining amounts to be distributed with 50 percent to the State General Fund and 50 percent to the county. The act also provides that any proceeds of hazardous waste disposal facility fees that are guaranteed to any county must be appropriated and expended for purposes as provided by local act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015, and applied retroactively to April 1, 2015.

Act 2015-316, SB285, is the annual codification bill. The act adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, those general and permanent laws of the state enacted during the 2014 Regular Session as contained in the 2014 Cumulative Supplement to certain volumes of the code and 2014 Replacement Volumes 5, 5A, 16, and 19. The act initially adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, 2013 Volume 22I (Local Laws Jefferson County) and adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, 2014 Cumulative Supplements to local law volumes. The act makes certain corrections in certain volumes of the cumulative supplement. The act also specifies that this adoption and incorporation constitutes a continuous systematic codification of the entire Code of Alabama 1975, and that the act is a law that adopts a code, declares that the code publisher has discharged its duties regarding the replacement volumes, expressly provides that the act does not affect other statutes enacted in 2015, and specifies the duties of the Secretary of State regarding the custody of the cumulative supplements, replacement volumes, and initial volume. (See Act 2015-368).

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015.

Act 2015-317, SB319, amends Sections 22-10B-2 and 22-10B-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission to remove a member if he or she fails to attend three consecutive meetings and to adopt rules for addressing complaints regarding service and management of statewide programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-318, SB321, amends Section 32-5A-178, Code of Alabama 1975, to further define the crime of drag racing to specify that the race or contest must occur on a public highway, to provide that organizers and spectators of the unlawful race or contest are guilty of the offense, to increase penalties for illegal drag racing, including the suspension of the person's driver's license, and to provide for the impoundment or seizure of vehicles involved in illegal drag racing under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015.

Act 2015-319, SB366, amends Sections 34-2A-2, 34-2A-8, 34-2A-11, 34-2A-12, and 34-2A-13, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Board of Assisted Living Administrators to establish the following fees: (1) a replacement fee for licensing cards that have been lost, misplaced, or stolen; and (2) a reapplication fee. The act also authorizes the board to charge licensed nursing home administrators who also wish to be an assisted living administrator an annual administrative fee and increases the administrative fines in disciplinary actions by the board from up to \$1,000 per violation to up to \$5,000 per violation and authorizes the board to discipline a licensee who pleads no contest or guilty in any case involving a lewd or lascivious act against a child or adult or for any crime when the punishment could include a sentence of imprisonment exceeding one year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-320, SB357, is the Gabe Griffin Right to Try Act. The act authorizes manufacturers to distribute, and an eligible terminally ill patient as defined in the act to use, an investigational drug, biological product, or device that has completed phase 1 of a clinical trial but has not yet been approved for general use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The act requires detailed notice to the patient regarding associated risks and requires the patient to give written, informed consent. The act also prohibits disciplinary action against a licensed health care provider based solely upon his or her recommendation to an eligible patient to use an investigational drug, biological product, or device and does not create a private cause of action against manufacturers, health care providers, or other entities related to the use of an investigational drug, product, or device.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-322, SB431, provides for the delivery of medical care services to certain elderly and disabled Medicaid beneficiaries on a managed care basis through one or more statewide integrated care networks, with offices in each regional care organization region, and establishes requirements for the governance of the network by a board of directors and operation of the integrated care network. The act also creates a citizens' advisory committee to advise the integrated care network on providing efficient and quality care to Medicaid beneficiaries, requires the Medicaid Agency to establish procedures for addressing grievances and appeals of action of an integrated care network, and requires the Medicaid Agency to create a quality assurance committee to review care rendered through the integrated care networks. The act also amends Section 22-6-160, Code of Alabama 1975, to eliminate an outdated reporting requirement of the Medicaid Agency and to make conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015.

Act 2015-325, SB458, amends Section 32-9-20, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to vehicle weight restrictions, to exempt a truck delivering asphalt plant mix from axle spacing requirements if the truck does not exceed the maximum allowable gross weight and operates within 50 miles of its home base.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-327, SB375, allows state entities to use state tax receipts earmarked for a specific purpose beyond that designated purpose in order to offset other funding reductions. The act does not apply to state tax receipts that are constitutionally dedicated, designated by the federal government, state or federal court order, or distributed directly to the counties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2015.

Act 2015-338, HB31, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Baldwin County, to allow mayors of municipalities in Baldwin County that participate in the Employees' Retirement System and those mayors holding office at the time of the ratification to purchase service for the time served in the current office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-339, HB602, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating only to Jefferson County, to provide that a tenant who receives residential garbage service from a governmental entity is solely responsible for payment of costs for the garbage service and uncollected charges may not constitute a lien on the property where the garbage service was received.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-340, SB21, amends Sections 36-25A-1, 36-25A-2, 36-25A-3, and 36-25A-9, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Open Meetings Act of 2005, to define and prohibit "serial meetings," to include committees and subcommittees in the current law, and to exclude certain meetings relating to economic development, as well as two members talking without deliberation. The act also provides that public access to the proceedings of the Legislature are solely governed by the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, sets the minimum penalty for violations of the act at \$1, provides that the penalty is payable to the plaintiff, provides for consolidation of multiple causes of action, and limits further liability of a member previously assessed a penalty for the same violation. (See Act 2015-475).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-341, HB47, amends Sections 13A-11-57, 13A-1-61.2, 13A-11-72, 13A-11-76, 13A-11-79, 13A-11-84, 22-52-10.8, and 40-12-143, Code of Alabama 1975, to substantially revise various provisions relating to the use, possession, and ownership of firearms. The act allows a person under the age of 18 to receive, possess, and own a pistol if he or she has the consent of a parent or legal guardian who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law and if the minor satisfies additional criteria and provides that a minor may receive title to a pistol, bowie knife, or other knife of like kind by inheritance. The act allows a person to possess a firearm or ammunition in an employee's privately-owned vehicle while parked or operated in a public or private parking area for the building or facility, even if possession of a firearm is prohibited in the building or facility. The act precludes a person convicted of certain domestic violence offenses, a person of unsound mind, or a person who is subject to a valid protection order from owning or possessing a firearm, unless he or she has had his or her rights restored. and also prohibits the delivery of a firearm to these persons. The act also eliminates certain record-keeping and administrative requirements relating to sales of pistols, requires that these records be permanently removed and destroyed without reproduction within a certain time frame. further provides for the entry of certain mental health information into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and allows a person who has been found insane, mentally incompetent, or not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to petition for the removal of applicable firearm prohibitions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-342, SB421, proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to allow the Legislature to authorize a retirement program for district attorneys and circuit clerks first elected or appointed on or after November 8, 2016. (See Act 2015-498).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent upon ratification.

Act 2015-349, HB630, exempts regional care organizations under the Medicaid program from the payment of all state, county, and municipal license fees, including any business privilege or license tax, but does not include individual health care providers who are members of the regional care organization in the exemption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-361, HB377, amends Sections 11-40-10, 11-51-91, 11-51-206, and 11-52-30, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to annexation, to provide that: (1) annexation of property by general or local law does not extend the police jurisdiction unless specifically provided; (2) annexation or deannexation of property after September 1, 2015, will be effective only once a year on the first day of January and will take effect for annexations or deannexations which were finalized on or before the preceding first day of October; and (3) municipalities must provide 30 days' notice prior to enforcement of an ordinance to fix and collect licenses for business, trade, or professions in its police jurisdiction. The act also requires a municipality to annually account for all revenue collected in its police jurisdiction and provide documentation of all services provided, prohibits a municipality from levying or assessing taxes within a police jurisdiction without providing 30 days' notice, and provides that any alteration to a municipal planning commission jurisdiction due to annexation or deannexation must occur only once a year on the first day of January and will take effect for any annexations which were finalized before the first day of October.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

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Act 2015-362, HB17, amends Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-64.1, 32-6-250, 32-6-251, 32-6-271, 32-6-280, 32-6-300, 32-6-301, 32-6-630, 32-8-30, 32-8-34, 32-8-35, 32-8-39, 40-12-244, and 40-12-414, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for various distinctive motor vehicle license plates. The act: (1) provides that a member of the Legion of Valor may receive a distinctive permanent license plate for a private passenger motor vehicle without the payment of any fee or tax; (2) allows retired professional firefighters who worked outside the state but now reside in the state to obtain a distinctive retired professional firefighters license plate; (3) increases the fee for the distinctive "Helping School" license plate; (4) allows an immediate family member of a person who died while on active duty in any branch of the United States military to receive one distinctive "Alabama Gold Star Family" license plate at no additional cost and be exempt from payment of the motor vehicle registration fee for that vehicle; (5) standardizes the surety bond amount for all designated agents of the Department of Revenue for the issuance of certificates of title; (6) requires that the owner of a motor vehicle subject to titling make application for a certificate of title to reflect the owner's current legal name; (7) establishes a new distinctive motor vehicle license plate for veterans who have received the Bronze Star; (8) provides for a distinctive motor vehicle license plate for paid professional firefighters and provides penalties for falsely obtaining a professional firefighter plate; (9) establishes a new personalized "In Memory" motor vehicle license plate honoring deceased family members; (10) establishes a new distinctive Alabama Bicentennial motor vehicle license plate and provides for the expiration of

the distinctive plate after five years; (11) authorizes the issuance of motorcycle license plates for all distinctive license plate categories; (12) allows all distinctive license plates to be personalized, except for certain distinctive plates; (13) provides for an additional fee for the issuance of any distinctive license plate and any personalized license plate to be paid only in the year the plate is issued; and (14) provides for an additional annual fee for the issuance of distinctive firefighter, professional firefighter, and retired professional firefighter license plates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2, relating to the surety bond and requiring applications for certificates of title to reflect the owner's current legal name, of the act is effective October 1, 2015. The remaining portions of the act are effective January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-363, HB62, amends Section 37-15-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the One-Call Notification System, to revise the definition of the term "excavate or excavation" to delete the reference to state and local government maintenance employees and to provide that excavation for purposes of notification does not include routine roadway maintenance activities that are carried out by or for anyone responsible for maintaining public roadways.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-364, HB208, authorizes a physician or dentist to prescribe, and a pharmacist to dispense, an opioid antagonist to an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose, or a family member, friend, or other individual, including law enforcement, in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose. The act provides immunity to a physician or dentist who prescribes, and a pharmacist who dispenses, an opioid antagonist for these purposes and to other individuals administering it pursuant to this act. The act also provides immunity from prosecution for consumption of alcohol for an individual under the age of 21 years if law enforcement becomes aware of the violation solely because the individual was seeking medical assistance for another and requires the Alabama Department of Public Health to approve a specific training curriculum for law enforcement officers who elect to carry and administer opioid antagonists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-365, HB222, provides that an employer who pays an employee in a manner that protects the wages of the employee from garnishment or withholding laws is personally liable for any child support that could have been garnished or withheld if the employer's intent to protect the wages is established by clear and convincing evidence.

Act 2015-366, HB262, prohibits a court from considering past, previous, or future military deployment as the sole factor when making an original child custody determination, when modifying an existing custody determination, or in any proceeding involving any person who is seeking custodial rights.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-367, HB323, prescribes the manner by which a county board of registrars investigates a report that a registered voter is deceased or becomes a nonresident of the precinct in which the person had been registered to vote, including notice to a voter who has been disqualified, in order to facilitate the continuous maintenance of the computerized statewide voter registration list.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 6, 2015.

Act 2015-368, HB324, is the annual codification bill. The act adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, those general and permanent laws of the state enacted during the 2014 Regular Session as contained in the 2014 Cumulative Supplement to certain volumes of the code and 2014 Replacement Volumes 5, 5A, 16, and 19. The act initially adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, 2013 Volume 22I (Local Laws Jefferson County) and adopts and incorporates into the Code of Alabama 1975, 2014 Cumulative Supplements to local law volumes. The act makes certain corrections in certain volumes of the cumulative supplement. The act also specifies that this adoption and incorporation constitutes a continuous systematic codification of the entire Code of Alabama 1975, and that the act is a law that adopts a code, declares that the code publisher has discharged its duties regarding the replacement volumes, expressly provides that the act does not affect other statutes enacted in 2015, and specifies the duties of the Secretary of State regarding the custody of the cumulative supplements, replacement volumes, and initial volume. (See Act 2015-316)

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-372, HB583, amends Section 34-14C-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt out-of-state providers of home medical equipment and services provided to Medicaid recipients from licensing requirements of the Board of Home Medical Equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-381, SB182, makes a supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund to the Legislature for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, in the amount of \$1,410,551, to the Department of Human Resources in the amount of \$3,000,000, to the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the amount of \$2,663,775, and to the Alabama Commissioner on Higher Education in the amount of \$200,000. The act also reduces by \$2,000 a prior appropriation made during the 2014 Regular Session from the Education Trust Fund to the Department of Finance for payments for unused sick leave for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-382, SB243, amends Section 40-2A-10, Code of Alabama 1975, to eliminate the certificate of good standing issued by the Department of Revenue to certify that a business entity is in compliance with business privilege taxes owed. The act allows the Department of Revenue to issue a compliance certificate in lieu of the certificate of good standing upon the request of an entity at a fee of \$10 for each certificate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-383, SB250, amends Section 9-16-79, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the Administrative Procedure Act does not apply to hearings and appeals of final Alabama Surface Mining Commission actions under the Alabama Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The act provides for judicial review of actions in the circuit court in the county in which the commission maintains its principal office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2016.

Act 2015-384, SB310, amends Section 40-23-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. from payment of state, county, and municipal sales and use taxes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-385, SB365, prohibits the sale, use, or offer to sell powdered alcohol with exceptions for certain institutions, such as hospitals and pharmaceutical companies, and provides that a possessor, user, or purchaser of powdered alcohol is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and a seller of powdered alcohol is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class D felony for a second or subsequent conviction.

Act 2015-386, SB383, amends Sections 16-36-62, 16-36-64, and 16-36-65, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the purchase of school textbooks, to authorize local boards of education to use a qualified textbook depository for the purchase and distribution of state or locally adopted textbooks as an option to purchasing textbooks on statewide contracts from various publishers. The act also establishes a 12-member Digital Depository Study Commission for the purpose of examining the application of a depository for digital materials and reporting the findings and proposals, if necessary, to the Legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 2015.

Act 2015-406, HB14, amends Sections 34-7B-1, 34-7B-2, 34-7B-7, 34-7B-13, 34-7B-17, and 34-7B-26, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish two classifications of barbers (Class 1 and Class 2 barbers) and to exempt Class 1 barbers from regulation by the Board of Cosmetology and Barbering.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-407, HB35, provides a specific unearned premium reserve for bail bond surety insurers equal to the lesser of 35 percent of the bail premiums in force or \$7 per \$1,000 of bail liability as an alternative to the requirement in existing law to post an unearned premium reserve in the same manner as property and general casualty insurers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-408, HB211, amends Sections 29-2-52, 29-2-200, 29-2-201, 29-4-20, 29-4-22, 29-4-25, 29-4-30, 29-4-32, 29-4-35, 29-4-40, 29-4-42, 29-5-2, 29-5-3, 29-5-4, 29-5-13, 29-6-1, 29-6-2, 29-6-3, 29-6-4, 29-6-7, 29-7-4, 29-8-1, 29-8-2, 29-8-3, 29-8-4, 29-8-5, 41-9-370, 41-9-374, 41-19-3, and 41-19-3.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the membership of the Legislative Council, to provide for the membership of the House and Senate Legislative Councils, and to replace the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Legislative Building Authority with the Legislative Council. Under the act, the House members of the Legislative Council comprise the House Legislative Council, and the Senate members of the Legislative Council comprise the Senate Legislative Council, the House Legislative Council sets the compensation for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the House, the Clerk's administrative assistant, and the chief clerk and the Senate Legislative Council sets the compensation for the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary's administrative assistant, and the chief clerk. The act provides that the Legislative Council is responsible for the general administrative services of the legislative entities, including personnel, accounting, and purchasing functions, space allocation in the State House, maintenance of a website of legislative expenses, oversight of the Legislative Data Center, and State House security. The act also: (1) abolishes the Legislative Building Authority and transfers its functions, powers, and duties to the Legislative Council; (2) removes the provision that ties the minimum compensation of the Director of the Legislative Fiscal Office to the compensation set for the State Budget Officer; (3) removes the provision that ties the compensation of Legislative Reference Service legislative analysts to that of attorneys under the State Merit System; (4) specifies that the Alabama Law Institute is a part of the Legislative Department and transfers powers previously granted to the Alabama State Bar regarding the institute to the Legislative Council; (5) creates new positions for the Director of Human Resources and Director of Technology; (6) eliminates the \$2 million minimum quarterly appropriations, as well as the \$500,000 automatic emergency appropriations for the Legislature; (7) shifts the costs associated with special sessions of the Legislature from the Legislature to the State General Fund; (8) provides for the continuation of the office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and (9) establishes the Commission on Uniform State Laws as an advisory commission to the Legislature, revises the membership of the commission, and requires the commission to present its budget annually to the Legislative Council for approval. The act also repeals Sections 29-1-22, 29-4-41, and 29-7-5, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to appropriations for legislative costs, additional employees of the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, and compensation of legislative reference analysts, respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The portions of the act relating to the composition of the Legislative Council and Sections 2, 3, and 4 are effective June 10, 2015. The remaining portions of the act are effective October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-409, HB332, amends Section 16-22-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to remove certain jurisdictional restrictions on police officers appointed by the President of Miles College and to require Miles College police officers to be certified through the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-410, HB562, amends Sections 16-25-26 and 36-27-8.2, Code of Alabama 1975, commencing in 2016, to increase to \$30,000 the compensation that a retiree receiving an Employees' Retirement System or Teachers' Retirement System allowance may earn for performing duties with an employer participating in the system and allows for annual adjustments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-430, SB22, amends Section 16-13-231, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Flexible School Calendar Act of 2012, to remove the temporary academic school calendar parameters provided for the 2013-2104 school year and to allow each local board of education to provide the required 180 full instructional days based on an hourly equivalent of no less than 1080 instructional hours.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-431, SB33, amends Sections 31-10-2 and 31-10-3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the National Guard Educational Assistance Act, to revise the definition of tuition to include payment of a minimum of \$100 per semester and not to exceed \$1,000 per semester for purposes of the act, to delete the defined term "veteran," and to require applicants for a tuition grant to complete a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-432, SB34, is the Alabama Armed Services Accommodation Act. The act establishes a procedure by which a circuit or district court may authorize video testimony in civil and criminal cases from a witness who is engaged in active duty military service or a forensic scientist of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences. The act establishes admissibility requirements and requires the party requesting the video testimony to pay all associated costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-433, SB51, is the Animal Census Reporting Act. The act requires an animal shelter owner, operator, manager, or director to compile a report including the total number of animals that have entered the facility, the disposition of the animals, and the costs incurred by the shelter for housing the animals. The act provides that the report is open to the public.

Act 2015-434, SB71, amends Sections 16-6D-4 and 16-6D-9, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, to redefine a failing school as a school designated as failing by the State Superintendent of Education or a school that does not exclusively serve a special population of students and is listed in the lowest 6 percent of public K-12 schools in the state based upon state standardized assessments in reading and math. The act also: (1) requires all participating private schools to be accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies or another specified agency within a specified time frame; (2) caps the amount of the educational scholarship that may be awarded to a student for an academic year by school level as follows: \$6,000 for elementary school students, \$8,000 for middle school students, and \$10,000 for high school students; (3) requires that scholarship funds on hand at the beginning of a calendar year be spent on scholarships by the end of the academic year in the following calendar year; (4) requires that any scholarship funds not spent by this time revert to the Education Trust Fund for the At-Risk Student Program to be distributed to local boards of education as determined by the State Department of Education; (5) increases the cap on the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be claimed by individual taxpayers, married couples filing jointly, and corporate taxpayers from \$25 million annually to \$30 million annually; (6) removes the \$7,500 cap on the amount of the credit claimed by an individual taxpayer or married couples filing jointly; and (7) allows tax credits claimed by corporate taxpayers to pass through and be claimed by shareholders, partners, or other members of the corporations as individual taxpayers. The act also authorizes taxpayers who timely filed a 2014 tax return, with extensions, who made contributions to a scholarship granting organization, and properly reserved the retroactive tax credits provided by this act, to claim the amounts reserved, subject to being limited to the remaining balance of the total \$25 million cumulative amount available for the 2014 calendar year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The amendments to subdivision (4) of Section 16-6D-4, Code of Alabama 1975, and paragraphs f. and o. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of Section 16-6D-9, Code of Alabama 1975, is retroactively effective to March 14, 2013. The remaining portions of the act are effective June 10, 2015, and apply retroactively to tax years or periods beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

Act 2015-435, SB76, amends Sections 41-4-2, 41-4-3, 41-4-261, 41-6A-4, and 41-9-141, Code of Alabama 1975, to abolish the 12-member Building Commission and transfer its duties to the Division of Construction Management created by act within the Department of Finance ("department") and to create the Divisions of Facilities Management, Leasing Management, and Energy Management within the department. The act also: (1) provides that all real property owned or leased by state agencies, with certain exceptions, must be managed by the department through the newly created divisions; (2) authorizes the new divisions to charge state agencies for any services provided; (3) creates the non-reverting Real Property Management Fund in the State Treasury where all user fees, appropriations, and other funds collected by the divisions will be deposited; (4) repeals the Building Commission Operating Fund and transfers the balance of this fund to the Real Property Management Fund; (5) transfers the authority currently held by the Building Commission regarding the regulation of home inspectors to the department, including the administration of the Alabama Home Inspectors Registration Fund; (6) abolishes the position of landscape gardener for the Capitol grounds; and (7) creates the eight-member Permanent Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Management of State-Owned and Leased Real Property whose duty is to review the implementation of the act, along with the work of the new divisions created by the act. The act also repeals Sections 41-4-183, 41-9-140, and 41-9-142, Code of Alabama, 1975, relating to the landscape gardener for the Capitol grounds, the creation and composition of the Building Commission, and user fees of the commission, respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-436, SB122, creates the Navigable Waters Dredging Fund, to be administered by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, for the dredging of navigable waters of this state and for sediment reuse and establishes a line item in the General Fund Budget for the fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-437, SB154, amends Section 23-1-26, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Director of Transportation to appoint additional assistant counsel as may be necessary to transact the business of the Department of Transportation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-438, SB160, requires certain state agencies to prepare and submit an annual report to the Executive Budget Office regarding the receipt of federal funds and to submit a plan to operate the state agency in the event federal receipts are reduced by certain amounts. The act requires the Executive Budget Office to submit summaries of the state agency reports to the Joint Fiscal Committee and requires the committee to make recommendations regarding necessary revisions to appropriations.

Act 2015-439, SB200, requires a written agreement between a person delivering or having consigned motor fuel ("consignor") and a merchant ("consignee") reflecting the agreement and that title to the fuels and proceeds are vested in the consignor and not the consignee. The act also creates the crime of theft of consigned motor fuels or the proceeds of consigned motor fuels and provides that the penalties are as provided for theft of property in the first, second, and third degrees, depending upon the value of the stolen fuel and proceeds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-440, SB210, amends Section 28-2-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise when wet/dry county elections are held after qualifying petitions are presented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-441, SB216, allows a state agency that is authorized by law to levy or assess fees that are retained by the agency for administrative costs to review the fee schedule and increase fees based upon the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for a specific period, not to exceed an increase of 2 percent per year. Each five years thereafter, the agency may increase fees based upon this process. The act does not apply to the Alabama Public Service Commission, the State Parks Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or the State Banking Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-442, SB226, amends Sections 16-33C-1, 16-33C-2, 16-33C-2.1, 16-33C-3, 16-33C-4, 16-33C-5, 16-33C-10, 16-33C-11, 16-33C-12, and 40-18-19, Code of Alabama 1975, to rename the Wallace-Folsom College Savings Investment Plan the Wallace-Folsom Savings Investment Plan, to establish the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) Program to assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting Alabama citizens with disabilities, and to provide for an income tax exemption for eligible ABLE Program participants. The act also revises the membership of the Savings Board, formerly known as the Alabama College Education Savings Program (ACES) Board, requires the Savings Board to develop and implement the ABLE Program, the ACES Program, and the PACT Program, and provides appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015 for development and implementation of the ABLE Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-443, SB287, amends Section 40-18-140, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide an income tax refund check-off for a contribution to the USS Alabama Battleship Commission.

Act 2015-444, SB298, extends the provisions of Act 2014-429 of the 2014 Regular Session, which granted a one-time lump-sum bonus to Employees' Retirement System retirees, as the bonuses relate to local participating employers, by allowing local participating employers to choose whether to grant a lump-sum bonus to their employees on or before September 30, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-445, SB341, amends Section 34-14C-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt certain providers of home medical equipment or services that manufacture or distribute their own company-branded power operated or durable insulin infusion pumps or continuous glucose monitors and related supplies from licensure by the Board of Home Medical Equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-446, SB342, amends Section 14-3-9, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Investigation and Intelligence Division of the Department of Corrections, to clarify the current name of the division, to allow law enforcement officers of the division to execute search warrants, and to specify that investigations of the division may include associates of inmates and employees of the department concerning violations relating to correctional facilities and inmates or the operation of the department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2015.

Act 2015-447, SB388, amends Section 40-18-140, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide an income tax refund check-off for a contribution to the Children First Trust Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-448, SB437, is the Simplified Seller Use Tax Remittance Act. The act allows eligible sellers to voluntarily collect, report, and remit remote sales tax beginning in the 2016 fiscal year at a tax rate of 8 percent. Proceeds of the tax will be appropriated to the Department of Revenue, which will retain the amount necessary to fund its administrative costs with the balance being distributed as follows: 50 percent to the State Treasury, with 75 percent allocated to the General Fund and 25 percent allocated to the Education Trust Fund; 25 percent to each county on a population basis; and 25 percent to each municipality on a population basis. The act also allows an eligible seller participating in the program to be granted amnesty for any uncollected remote use tax that may have been due on sales made to purchasers for the 12-month period preceding October 1, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-450, HB554, amends and renumbers Sections 41-9-201, 41-9-202, 41-9-202.1, 41-9-203, 41-9-760 to 41-9-767, inclusive, and 41-23-7, Code of Alabama 1975, to transfer the Workforce Development Division and the Workforce Investment Division of the Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to the Department of Commerce, and to reorganize the Department of Commerce into two divisions, the Business Development Division and the Workforce Development Division. The act also creates a 22-member Alabama Small Business Commission, an Alabama Small Business Advisory Committee, and a Legislative Oversight Commission of the Workforce Development Division and transfers administration of the existing workforce investment board and local workforce investment boards from ADECA to the Department of Commerce. The act repeals Section 41-9-204, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the consolidation and transfer of certain appropriations to the Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015, and shall become operative in whole or in part on a date to be determined by the Secretary of Commerce, but not later than October 1, 2016.

Act 2015-451, HB12, provides for the limited waiver of licensing requirements for an athletic team physician who holds a current, unrestricted license to practice medicine or osteopathy in another state and who is providing services to any member of the official traveling party of the athletic team pursuant to a written agreement with the team. The act prohibits the person from providing medical services at certain health care facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-452, HB61, amends Sections 37-4-87 and 37-4-96, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase penalties for violations of gas pipeline safety standards and hazardous liquid pipeline safety standards to \$200,000 for each violation, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$2,000,000 for any series of related violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-453, HB71, amends Section 25-4-70, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit employees of private companies that provide direct services to educational institutions from receiving unemployment benefits during breaks in employment during holidays, fall and winter breaks, and summer vacation for any week of unemployment beginning on or after May 1, 2015.

Act 2015-454, HB129, makes an appropriation of \$37,131,484 from the Children First Trust Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to the entities delineated in Section 41-15B-2.2, Code of Alabama 1975. The act also provides for the deposit of tobacco settlement revenues in the Children First Trust Fund, requires written notification of anticipated agency allocations by the Director of Finance, and conditions the allocations on the receipt of tobacco revenues. The act makes an appropriation of \$44,835,893 from other tobacco settlement funds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to specified entities, including the Medicaid Agency. The act also makes conditional appropriations of additional tobacco revenues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-455, HB130, amends Section 9-11-54, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for the issuance of annual hunting and fishing licenses for a reduced fee to a totally and permanently disabled resident of this state who is receiving a disability benefit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-456, HB197, is Erin's Law. The act requires the Governor's Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, created by the act, to adopt guidelines for a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for required use in public K-12 schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-457, HB209, amends Section 13A-11-260, Code of Alabama 1975, to include a trained police animal handled by a Class One Railroad Officer or special agent within the police animal protection laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-458, HB238, amends Section 40-26B-21, Code of Alabama 1975, to extend the current supplemental privilege assessment and monthly surcharge on nursing home facilities to August 31, 2017, and to provide that the Medicaid nursing facility program will continue to be administered directly by the Medicaid Agency until October 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-459, HB254, amends Section 17-4-38, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Secretary of State to share voter lists with other states free of charge and to share information with other states in order to maintain the statewide voter registration database. The act also requires state agencies to provide information and data to the Secretary of State to assist in the maintenance of the statewide voter registration database and provides that costs associated with verification of the voter registration database by a county board of registrars will be paid from the Voter Registration Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-460, HB265, amends Section 11-52-31, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize a municipal planning commission to adopt regulations authorizing the administrative approval of minor subdivisions, defined in the act as a subdivision of land into not more than six lots or a reduction of the number of lots in an existing subdivision, without a public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-461, HB286, designates the queen honey bee as the official agricultural state insect of Alabama.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-462, HB312, authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to require an endorsement stamp to harvest specific species or species groups of marine resources pursuant to requirements and fees established by rule.

Act 2015-463, HB316, amends Sections 12-15-107, 12-15-116, 13A-5-2, 13A-5-6, 14-9-41, 15-18-8, 15-19-7, 15-20A-4, 15-20A-5, 15-20A-6, 15-20A-7, 15-20A-8, 15-20A-9, 15-20A-10, 15-20A-11, 15-20A-12, 15-20A-13, 15-20A-14, 15-20A-15, 15-20A-16, 15-20A-17, 15-20A-18, 15-20A-20, 15-20A-21, 15-20A-22, 15-20A-23, 15-20A-24, 15-20A-25, 15-20A-26, 15-20A-27, 15-20A-28, 15-20A-29, 15-20A-30, 15-20A-31, 15-20A-32, 15-20A-34, 15-20A-35, 15-20A-36, 15-20A-37, 15-20A-38, 15-20A-39, 15-20A-40, 15-20A-42, 15-20A-43, 15-20A-44, 15-20A-45, 15-20A-46, 15-22-27.3, 32-6-49.24, 36-18-24, 36-18-25, 38-13-2, and 38-13-4, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act, to: (1) make technical revisions; (2) clarify that petitions from relief from registration, employment, or living restrictions must be filed in the civil division of the circuit court; (3) provide a penalty for a sex offender who absconds and fails to register with the appropriate county; and (4) require a sex offender to provide law enforcement with a list of all Internet providers used. The act also requires a sex offender who petitions a court for relief from the restrictions related to contact with former victims or residing near former victims provided by the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act (SORNA) to pay a filing fee of \$200 which would be distributed as follows: (1) Circuit Clerk's Restitution Recovery Fund, \$50; (2) Sheriff (to be deposited into the County General Fund), \$50; (3) District Attorney's Fund, \$50; and (4) Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, \$50. The act revises the current distribution of the additional \$200 filing fee for petitions for relief from various provisions of the Alabama SORNA by providing that \$50 of each \$200 fee will be distributed to the sheriff of the county in which the petition for relief is filed rather than to the law enforcement agency providing community notification and changes the current distributions of fines collected for persons convicted of violating the provisions of the Alabama SORNA by providing that \$50 of each \$250 shall be distributed to the law enforcement agency (state or local) that requested the warrant for the offender for violating such provisions rather than to the local law enforcement agency providing community notification. The act specifies that any fines and fees distributed to a county and made available to the sheriff or to a municipality and made available to the chief of police under the provisions of the Alabama SORNA shall be deposited into either the county general fund or the municipal general fund, respectively. The act also requires that money deposited into the county general fund and earmarked for use by the sheriff must be used for sex offender registration, notification, tracking, or apprehension purposes, and the money deposited into the municipal general fund must be made available for use for such purposes upon requisition of the chief law enforcement official of the agency or department using the funds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-464, HB343, amends Section 26-2A-107, Code of Alabama 1975, to extend, from 15 days to 30 days, the time period in which a temporary guardian appointed by a probate court may have authority to act on behalf of an incapacitated person.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-465, HB352, clarifies the proper use and enforcement of restrictive covenants in certain commercial contracts and provides that certain contracts or agreements are permissible under law, such as, among others, a contract limiting a person's ability to hire an agent, servant, or employee of a party to the contract if the employee holds a position uniquely essential to the business, an agreement to limit commercial dealings to the parties to the contract, and an agreement in which a party sells the good will of a business and the buyer agrees to refrain from carrying on or engaging in a similar business or from soliciting customers of the business. The act also delineates what interests are protectable interests in the context of these contracts. The act repeals Section 8-1-1, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to contracts restraining businesses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-466, HB380, amends Sections 6-5-332.1 and 6-5-332.2, Code of Alabama 1975, to add "response action responders" to the list of persons who respond to a hazardous waste discharge with civil immunity for actions relating to the response unless the person's act or omission proximately caused the discharge. The act also deletes a provision exempting from civil immunity those persons responding to a discharge who received compensation for the response. The act also includes gasoline in the definition of "oil" with regard to civil immunity for persons responding to oil spills.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-467, HB389, amends Sections 22-11A-60, 22-11A-61, 22-11A-62, 22-11A-63, 22-11A-66, 22-11A-67, and 22-11A-73, Code of Alabama 1975, to require health care workers infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) to report the infection to the State Health Officer and to allow the State Board of Health to designate by rule other diseases that infected health care workers must report to the State Health Officer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-468, HB401, amends Section 27-15-13, Code of Alabama 1975, to require a life insurance company to pay interest on any money due on the payment of a life insurance contract if it fails to make payment under a policy pursuant to a death claim within 30 days after satisfactory proof of death and to provide that the rate of interest is the current rate of interest on death proceeds left on deposit with the insurer.

Act 2015-470, HB458, amends Sections 32-8-84, 32-13-1, 32-13-2, 32-13-3, 32-13-4, and 32-13-6, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to unclaimed or abandoned motor vehicles, to provide that a motor vehicle left on a public road or on private property, including a vehicle left for repairs, for more than 48 hours without consent is deemed an unclaimed motor vehicle, to require that such vehicles be reported to the Department of Revenue, to require a person or entity reporting the vehicle to query the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) to determine the title state of record, and to require the department to put a 45-day hold on the title record. The act allows a law enforcement officer to have a motor vehicle towed or removed from a location and provides limited immunity for law enforcement officers and persons towing at the direction of law enforcement officers, and allows a towing company to obtain a lien on the vehicle for towing and storage. Under the act, a law enforcement officer may have the vehicle towed if it is left on a public road for more than 48 hours, the driver is arrested or impaired by an accident, when determined necessary by the officer, or when the vehicle may be impounded for outstanding parking tickets. The act also establishes procedures for the sale of unclaimed and abandoned motor vehicles, including a pre-sale appeal to the Alabama Tax Tribunal or circuit court, and criminal penalties for fraudulent statements regarding the sale of the vehicle.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016.

Act 2015-471, HB500, is the Alabama Health Planning Facilitation Act. The act: (1) establishes a 13-member Health Care Information and Data Advisory Council; (2) requires health care reporters to submit mandatory reports to the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA); (3) requires SHPDA to develop rules for health care reporters to submit annual mandatory reports; and (4) requires SHPDA to develop the capability to accept these reports electronically within 12 months of the adoption of rules. In the event SHPDA is unable to comply with electronic reporting requirements, the act becomes null and void. The act also authorizes SHPDA to collect fees for providing copies of all mandatory health care data reports, publications, or studies and establishes administrative penalties to be imposed by SHPDA against health care reporters that do not comply with the reporting requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-472, HB506, amends Section 25-4-78, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the amount of unemployment compensation benefits payable to an individual who received or has been determined eligible to receive a governmental or other pension, retirement, annuity, or similar periodic payment that is based upon the individual's previous work, must be reduced only if the payment is made under a plan that is maintained or contributed to by a base period employer, 100 percent employer-financed, and not contributed to by the worker. The act also provides that any pension payments retroactively awarded to an individual constitute disqualification and require recovery of any benefits paid during the disqualification period only if the pension payments were made under a plan that is maintained or contributed to by a base period employer, 100 percent employer-financed, and not contributed to by the worker.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-473, SB4, amends Section 32-5A-82, Code of Alabama 1975, to require the driver of a vehicle overtaking and passing a bicycle on certain roadways to maintain a safe distance of not less than three feet, provided that the cyclist is riding within two feet of the right shoulder of the roadway.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-474, SB49, amends Section 23-1-241, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Highway Beautification Act-Junkyard Control, to define the term "primary system" as a highway that is on the National Highway System, as defined under federal law, which includes the Interstate Highway System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-475, SB132, amends Section 36-25A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to further define the term "meeting" under the Open Meetings Act to exclude occasions when two members of a governmental body, including two members of a governmental body with only three members, gather to exchange background and educational information or for the sole purpose of discussing an economic, industrial, or commercial prospect or incentive that does not include a conclusion as to recommendations, policy, decision, or final action on the terms or an offer of public financial resources. (See Act 2015-340).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-476, SB142, allows the parent or guardian of a minor at least 14 years of age and under 19 years of age to authorize medical treatment for mental health services even if the minor has expressly refused the treatment if the parent and a mental health professional determine that clinical intervention is necessary and appropriate.

Act 2015-477, SB148, amends Sections 17-13-102, 17-13-104, 17-13-105, and 17-14-31, Code of Alabama 1975, to extend the deadlines for the filing of certain notices and petitions relating to candidacies and electing delegates for the presidential and vice presidential elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-478, SB212, amends Sections 36-26-10 and 36-26-32.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow each state agency to hire up to two additional exempt employees and to provide that an employee who returns to a former merit or civil service classification reverts to his or her former position in which he or she held status in the classified service, without loss of salary or other benefits that would have accrued to the employee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-479, SB229, requires the Secretary of State to develop a program providing for an electronic process for the recording of filing activities by business and nonprofit entities. The act also allows any county that voluntarily chooses to participate in the program to do so by written agreement and authorizes county commissions and judges of probate to satisfy general and local law requirements by participating in the electronic processing program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-480, SB232, amends Section 34-8-7, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the exemption for contractors that improve property which they own from the licensing and regulation requirements for general contractors may not be altered or restricted by a municipality or regulatory body and to repeal any conflicting municipal ordinance or regulation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-481, SB270, prohibits insurers of vision care services from limiting a vision care provider's ability to set fees for services and materials, to participate in specific vision care plans, or to choose sources of suppliers and prohibits vision care providers from charging more to an insurer than the usual and customary rates of other vision care providers. The act also provides that reimbursements paid by an insurer or vision care plan for covered services and materials must be reasonable and does not preclude the use of discount cards by vision care providers who voluntarily participate in the discount program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-482, SB292, allows electronic delivery of a property or casualty insurance policy to the address at which the insured has consented to receive notice pursuant to certain procedures and notice requirements and specifies that policies and endorsements may also be delivered electronically. The act allows an insured to request a paper copy of the policy at no charge.

Act 2015-483, SB296, prohibits health insurance policies, health maintenance organization plans, and other health benefits plans providing coverage for dental services from setting fees for services that are not covered by the plan or policy, with certain exceptions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-484, SB327, amends Sections 6-10-2, 6-10-6, 6-10-11, 43-8-110, 43-8-111, 43-8-113, and 43-8-115, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase permissible exemptions available to a surviving spouse to \$15,000 for homestead and \$7,500 for personal property. The act also increases a debtor's individual homestead exemption to \$15,000 and an individual's personal property exemption to \$7,500. The act requires the State Treasurer to adjust these exemptions to reflect the cumulative change in the Consumer Price Index, beginning on July 1, 2017, and the end of each three-year period thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-485, SB354, amends Section 9-11-264, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the existing provision of law that a person is strictly liable for damages to other persons or domestic animals by persons using traps or other similar devises applies only if the trap or device is located on public land.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-486, SB361, amends Section 41-1-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit certain relatives from involvement in the hiring, supervision, or performance evaluation of school employees and provides misdemeanor penalties for violations. The act also allows an applicant to bring a declaratory judgment action in the circuit court if a position in a school is filled by a relative of an executive officer, board member, principal, or other supervisor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-487, SB454, amends Sections 16-50-20, 16-50-26, and 16-50-28, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the membership of the Board of Trustees of Alabama State University by adding two at-large members, to decrease term lengths from 12 to 6 years, and to limit members to two six-year terms. The act also requires the use of a nominating committee for selection of board members, provides for emergency meetings of the board, allows members to participate in meetings by electronic means, and further provides for the reimbursement of expenses of members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2015.

Act 2015-488, SB455, amends Section 9-12-46, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish areas that are closed for commercial and recreational harvesting of shrimp during specified periods and to provide for emergency open and closed seasons. The act also allows shrimp harvested from inland ponds or farms to be processed at the site where the harvesting occurs pursuant to rules adopted by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-492, HB134, provides an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence in the amount of \$178,561 and provides for a conditional appropriation from the State General Fund to the coalition in the amount of \$14,478.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015.

Act 2015-493, SB148, amends Sections 11-45-9, 13A-6-130, 13A-6-131, 13A-6-132, 13A-6-134, 13A-6-8, 13A-6-140 to 13A-6-143, inclusive, 15-10-3, 15-13-190, 15-23-68, 30-5-2, 30-5-3, 30-5-5 to 30-5-8, inclusive, 30-6-1 to 30-6-11, inclusive, 30-6-13, 30-7-1 to 30-7-6, inclusive, 30-9-1 and 30-9-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence. The act provides a consistent definition of domestic violence throughout Titles 13A, 15, and 30, Code of Alabama 1975, clarifies the definition of dating relationship as it relates to domestic violence, further provides for the issuance of domestic violence protection orders, requires enhanced communication among law enforcement agencies to ensure protection of a victim when a protection order is issued, and requires law enforcement officers to offer certain assistance and information to victims of domestic violence when responding to incidents. The act also transfers the responsibility of certifying and monitoring domestic violence shelters from the Office of Prosecution Services to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), creates a Domestic Violence Trust Fund administered by ADECA to fund domestic violence centers in the state, establishes a certified domestic violence center capital improvement grant program under ADECA, further provides for the sentencing authority of a municipal court for certain offenses, such as domestic violence offenses, and creates the position of domestic violence resource prosecutor at the Office of Prosecution Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016.

Act 2015-494, SB220, is the Property Insurance and Energy Reduction Act of Alabama. The act allows a county, municipality, or improvement district to adopt programs to finance, through bonds, notes issued by the governmental entity, or other funds, necessary implementation of improvements to properties in designated regions for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency and community resilience to storm-related events, such as high winds and flooding. The act requires a local government to designate areas where projects would be completed, provides for the contractual relationship between the local government and the private property owner participating in the program, and provides that an unpaid contractual assessment under the program would be a non-ad valorem assessment lien on the affected property similar to ad valorem tax liens.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-495, SB241, amends Sections 17-5-2, 17-5-4, 17-5-5, 17-5-6, 17-5-7, 17-5-8, 17-5-9, 17-5-10, 17-5-19, 36-25-3, 36-25-4, 36-25-14, and 36-25-15, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to campaign financing, to clarify when campaign contributions and expenditures are made, to clarify the disposition of a campaign committee and its assets upon its dissolution or termination, and to clarify that legal costs associated with a civil action, criminal prosecution, or investigation reasonably related to the performance of duties may be paid using campaign funds. The act also decreases the civil penalties for failure to properly report contributions or expenditures, provides for the payment of certain civil penalties using campaign funds, provides for enforcement of the Fair Campaign Practices Act by the State Ethics Commission, including authorizing the commission to affirm, reduce, or set aside civil penalties, to take investigative actions of potential criminal violations, and to issue advisory opinions, and provides that a complaint filed would be subject to secrecy protections and that a violation would be punishable as a Class C felony. The act also provides that, beginning with the first vacancy after January 1, 2016, the State Ethics Commission must include a former elected public official who served at least two terms as an elected public official.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

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Act 2015-496, SB307, amends Sections 34-37-1, 34-37-2, 34-37-4, 34-37-5, 34-37-6, 34-37-8, 34-37-9, 34-37-11, 34-37-12, 34-37-14, 34-37-15, and 34-37-17, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to: (1) revise definitions; (2) provide further for administrative fines, fees, penalties, and other administrative disciplinary actions, including the ability of the board to levy fines up to \$2,000, plus hearing costs; (3) abolish bonding requirements; (4) authorize the board to expend funds for public awareness purposes; (5) require an apprentice gas fitter or plumber to have a current annual certificate; and (6) remove provisions for the master plumber's and gas fitter's bond and the temporary certificate. The act also provides that any funds remaining in the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board Fund at the end of each fiscal year in excess of 25 percent of the board's prior year budget will be transferred to the Alabama Home Builders Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, rather than to the State General Fund as currently provided by law, and used for specified purposes. The act also repeals Sections 34-37-10 and 34-37-13, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to temporary certificates and bonding requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-497, SB311, amends Section 24-6-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to reduce the required meetings of the advisory board to the Alabama Manufactured Housing Commission from at least four times a year to at least two times a year and to require diversity of advisory board members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2015.

Act 2015-498, SB411, amends Section 36-27B-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish the Judges' and Clerks' Plan for Retirement for justices, judges, and circuit clerks first elected or appointed to his or her position on or after November 8, 2016, who is not a member of the Judicial Retirement Fund or Clerks' and Registers' Supernumerary Fund on November 7, 2016. The act also establishes the District Attorneys' Plan for Retirement for all district attorneys first elected or appointed to his or her position on or after November 8, 2016. Under the act, both retirement plans will be under the management and supervision of the Employees' Retirement System under the Judicial Retirement Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 8, 2016, contingent upon the ratification of the constitutional amendment proposed in Senate Bill 421 (See Act 2015-342).

Act 2015-499, HB217, amends Sections 40-12-240 and 40-12-248, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the annual license tax and registration fee imposed on truck tractors owned and used by a farmer to transport farm products, to define "farmer," to change the limitation authorizing a farmer to obtain a tag at a reduced annual license tax and registration fee from only one truck tractor to four truck tractors, and to provide that the reduced annual license tax and registration fee is not available for truck tractors used on a for hire basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 12, 2015.